



H.R. 1680 – Secure Handling of Ammonium Nitrate Act of 2007

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 1680 was introduced by Representative Bennie Thompson (D-MS) on March 26, 2007. The bill was ordered to be reported as amended from the Committee on Homeland Security, by voice vote, on October 2, 2007.

H.R. 1680 is expected to be considered on the floor on October 23, 2007.

BACKGROUND

Ammonium nitrate is a compound commonly found in fertilizer that has been used to create explosive devices.

Ammonium nitrate was used in the 1995 bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City.

There are currently no federal regulations governing the sale of ammonium nitrate in the United States.

SUMMARY

H.R. 1680 authorizes the Secretary of Homeland Security to regulate the sale of ammonium nitrate, in order to prevent and deter terrorists from acquiring the substance for use in explosives.

This bill requires any person who owns an ammonium nitrate facility or who buys or sells ammonium nitrate to register with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS).

Under this legislation, DHS is required to check the identifying information of each person seeking to register against the Terrorist Watch List, and DHS can deny registration numbers to applicants when matches occur, however it also provides for an expedited appeals process for individuals denied registration numbers.

H.R. 1680 requires registered ammonium nitrate retailers to keep records of each sale or transfer of ammonium nitrate, including name, address and telephone number of the purchaser and the quantity sold or transferred, for at least two years.

H.R. 1680 enables sellers to refuse sale of ammonium nitrate and report suspicious purchases or transfers or attempted purchases or transfers to DHS without being subject to civil liability.

This bill provides for penalties of up to \$50,000 for each violation of this Act.

COST

“CBO estimates that implementing H.R. 1680 would cost \$45 million over the 2008-2012 period, assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts. Enacting the bill could affect revenues, but we estimate that any such effects would not be significant. Enacting H.R. 1680 would not affect direct spending.” [CBO Cost Estimate](#)

STAFF CONTACT

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